CONVENTION ON
MIGRATORY
SPECIES

Distr: GENERAL

UNEP/CMS/Resolution 8.10

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CMS INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its Eighth Meeting (Nairobi, 20-25 November 2005)

Recalling Resolution 6.5 (Cape Town, 1999), outlining the objectives of the Information Management Plan and identifying the priority actions to be carried out by the end of 2004;

Noting with satisfaction, the progress made by the Secretariat and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) in implementing many of the identified priority actions, including a synthesis of the Party reports to CMS and its related Agreements, and the development of the CMS Information Management System bringing together information from Party reports, knowledge generated within CMS and other biodiversity agreements, and data from various expert organizations;

Acknowledging the support by the German Government and all other cooperating institutions to the development of GROMS, which is complementary to the Information Management System and provides information not only for the Convention, its Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding, but also for other biodiversity-related conventions with which cooperation is ongoing or intended;

Noting that the CMS Information System already interconnects through GROMS databases of several expert organizations so that users of the system can gain immediate access to the information available within these organizations on any given species;[1]

Recognizing that the Information Management System brings together the information provided by the Parties to CMS through their National Reports, the knowledge generated within CMS and other biodiversity-related agreements, and the data from various expert organizations;

Appreciating the potential of the information analysed in the syntheses of the National Reports to bring together in a synoptic manner a wealth of information on the activities, knowledge, strengths and needs of the CMS Parties, and to identify relevant issues across regions or about CMS-listed taxa requiring special attention;

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[1] Systems currently interconnected through the CMS Information Management System include: Fishbase; Species 2000; IOSEA on-line Data Base; IUCN Red List; International Taxonomic Information System; and GBIF information.

Recognizing further that the strength of the conclusions of these syntheses depends crucially on the comprehensiveness and timeliness of the information submitted by all Parties to the Convention; and

Recognizing that the Standing Committee, at its 23rd meeting, reiterated the need to link GROMS with other CMS databases; that the Scientific Council, at its 11th meeting, linked its information needs to GROMS; and proposals for the future of GROMS considered at the Seventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (document UNEP/CMS/Conf.7.7);

The Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

Invites the CMS Secretariat to:

1.   Continue to identify "partner organizations" for the collection, management and use of information relevant to migratory species;

2.   Expand the CMS Information Management System to incorporate relevant information from the Strategic Plan, and further information available within Agreement Secretariats and other organizations;

3.   Work with the Biodiversity Conservation Information System (BCIS) and others to share information and resources (e.g. GROMS) and to address the information needs of the Convention and its Agreements;

4.   Strengthen linkages with the on-going global environmental assessments, particularly UNEP Global Environment Outlook (GEO), as well as explore opportunities to support the review process of the GEO-4 assessment, in order to facilitate the sharing of the latest, credible data and information on status, trends, emerging issues and challenges on migratory species;

5.   Explore synergies between GROMS and the UNEP GEO Data Portal to enhance the mutual use of reliable data sets and information, in the form of maps, charts and graphics, in reporting on migratory species related issues;

6.   Build on existing efforts to establish an up-to-date, comprehensive and authoritative database of listed species and range states, linked to other relevant species information and available on the web;

7.   Develop a CMS and Agreements projects database to help in monitoring the contribution being made by the Convention to ongoing work on migratory species, and as an aid to project management;

8.   Request the submission of Party reports and other official documents, including project reports, proposed amendments to the Appendices and reports on 'concerted action species' in electronic format in order to make them available through the internet;

9.   Develop a mechanism for the sharing of experience on priority topics and establish list servers or web forums for discussion and exchange of information on key areas of interest to the implementation of the Convention and/or Agreements;

10.   Finances permitting, develop a method for sharing information between the Convention, Agreement Secretariats and the Parties;

11.   Finances permitting, develop an information system on a group of high-profile species in collaboration with partner organizations, to demonstrate the potential for a coordinated, web-based information system to support the Convention and Agreements; and

12.   Continue the dialogue with information managers of other global biodiversity-related treaties on streamlining information management and reporting.